



**Great Smoky Mountains National Park**  
[www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm)

## Education

*The following centennial proposal is certified as eligible for Centennial Challenge funding consideration in fiscal year 2008. Funding for the Centennial Challenge requires legislation.*

### **Bring Visitor Services to Visitors**

Location: Tennessee-North Carolina

Partner(s): Great Smoky Mountains Association

Partner Website: [www.smokiesstore.org](http://www.smokiesstore.org)

Total Cost: \$200,000

Proposal # 137529

**Summary:** The park would like to develop a mobile visitor center equipped with mounted maps, exhibits, brochures and sales items, along with cellular and computer access. The cost of operation and staffing would be recovered from sales of materials. Staff from the Great Smoky Mountains Association and/or the park would be stationed inside the vehicle to interact with visitors. The sides of the vehicle would swing up to expose the maps, exhibits and sales items, while providing shelter for the materials and visitors. Less than one-third of visitors are contacted at the park's three visitor centers. Since the park has no entrance station, a mobile visitor center would allow park staff to provide information, orientation and other services to park visitors who do not stop at a visitor center. A pilot mobile information program was operated for two months at highly visited sites along Newfound Gap. During the 86 hours of operation, over 10,000 visitors were contacted.

**For more information contact:**

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